

ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

& POLAR NUMISMATIST

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HISTORY OF THE BEACHCOMBERS

from an article by Bryan Pherson
published in the magazine Elwani,
Kodiak, 1981.

The original Beachcombers was started in 1939 and was a small building located by Potatoe Patch Lake. Henry Legrue and his wife Eadie began working there in 1955

and purchased the Beachcombers in 1957. In 1964, when the tidal wave hit Kodiak, it wiped out their small building and many other houses around Potatoe Patch Lake.



The clean-up crews for the tidal wave dug a channel to drain the water from the lake so they could burn the wreck houses and buildings. Henry and Eadie thought a river boat would look nice setting in that channel.

Soon they went down to the states looking for a boat that they could put in that channel. They had river boats in New Orleans but they would have to be placed on a barge and shipped through the Panama Canal to Kodiak. They finally found a vessel that was for sale in Victoria, British Columbia.

The vessel they found was the *Princess Nora*. The *Princess Nora* was built in Scotland for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The keel was laid in 1927 and it was commissioned in 1928 for use on the inland passage between Vancouver, B.C. and Haines, Alaska.

When the Beachcombers purchased the vessel they also bought a contract to have it towed to Kodiak. Before the vessel could be moved it had to be lightened by 187 tons to make towing it possible. They made three attempts to tow it to Kodiak and all three attempts failed. A tug succeeded on the fourth try and towed it to Kodiak in 5 days. The ship was moored to the oil dock by the Navy Base and it knocked the oil dock to splinters by moving just a few inches a minute. Once the vessel was here it had to be leveled out before they could pull it into the channel. This was done with cement blocks.

When they had the vessel ready to pull it into the channel the bow was drawing 12.1 feet and the stern was drawing 12 feet. They used a Navy tug which drew 13 feet and three drag tugs which drew 3 feet to pull it into the channel. Once it was in the channel they had to convert several things before it could be changed from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC). Another change that had to be made was the sewage system had to be changed to fresh water flush systems and a septic tank installed. They also had to have their own road built to the ship because there wasn't a road that far out in that direction.

The vessel was used as a night club until 1974 when they moved into a new building.

The main reason for moving into a new building was because a boiler, and 3½ miles of pipe went bad in the ship and it would be cheaper to build a new building.

The vessel has been sold and is now waiting for a Seattle contractor to come up, cut it up and ship it down to Seattle as scrap metal.

We can offer the silver medal for \$30 and the brass (tarnished) for \$5, plus \$5 shipping. Only one of each, please call or email. The brass is common. Can't believe we only have one!

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

There are days I like my job, and there are days I really like my job. Upon returning to Fairbanks after my last trip to Massachusetts, Jerry had set a bunch of Alaska stuff on my desk in a bag. It was more of the usual stuff, but for several of the same medals that came tumbling out.

In the 70s and 80s, the Fairbanks Gold Kings were one of the best amateur hockey teams in the country. I believe they won a national championship.

What got my attention were several cast, ugly, crude, thin, "tinny" medals that I poured out on my desk. They commemorated the 5th Anniversary of the Gold Kings. Six were silver in color, and the seventh was goldish. I had not seen these before (refer to Dick's rule of 20).

As I said, these are ugly and crude. But I like ugly and crude, especially if they are 25 years old. You can see it does not take much to amuse me, and you too can be amused, for a price. See For the Record (page 31) for the silver colored pieces, and Lot #209 in the enclosed auction for a pair, including the only gold colored medal in the lot. We have been informed that there are other gold colored examples, but this is the only one we have to offer.

Many items are offered for sale this month. We have had many of these "forever," but with silver going up (and down and up), it seemed like a good time to bring them out of the file drawers, dust them off and try to raise some cash!

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Bethel , N.C. Co., 50¢, B-2b	OB60.00NB
Bering River , Hoonah Pkg. 10¢, B-1b	OB60.00NB
Cordova , Rosswog, 6¼¢, B-34b	39.99OB
Cordova , United Bakery, 12½¢, B-37a	150.00OB
Douglas , Opera House Bar, 6¼¢, B-13a	295.00OB
Eagle , Eagle Trd. Co., \$5 book of chits, B-1e	152.50
(Fairbanks) , American Legion, \$1 unl.	95.00OB
(Goodnews Bay) , Rutlader \$1, B-2c	192.50
Juneau , Yukon Bar, 6¼¢, B-73a	510.00
(Katalla) , Ashland, 12½¢, B-1a	OB250.00NB
Ketchikan , Sloten's, 5¢, B-58a	52.56
(Knik) , Palmers Bar, 12½¢ Trade Check, unl.	960.00
Latouche , Little, 12½¢, B-2a	75.00OB
Nome , Belmont, (12½¢), B-7a	130.39
(Nome) , Board of Trade, BBC, 12½¢, unl.	565.00
Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c, PCGS-61	96.00
Palmer , ARRC set of 8, B-1	OB1,100.00NB
Palmer , ARRC set of 7, B-1, missing \$5	750.00BIN
(Skagway) , (Horseshoe), 6¼¢, B-13a	OB75.00NB
(Skagway) , Shooting Gallery, 25¢, B-25unl	282.00
Snug Harbor , \$1.25 Bx Clams, B-2a	OB45.00NB
Tanana , The Senate, Drink or cigar, B-7a	495.00OB
Valdez , C.B. Buffet, 12½¢ TC, B-4a	OB45.00NB
(Valdez) , Huneke, 5¢, B-8a	195.00OB
(Dawson, Y.T.) , Kilgore & Landahl	RLOB149.99NB
AYPE , ¼ DWT	183.50
AYPE , 1/2 DWT, NGC-63	OB499.00NB
AYPE , 1 DWT	133.50
AYPE , encased cent, round	44.99
AYPE , encased cent, "potty"	36.00

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist

RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve W = withdrawn

BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

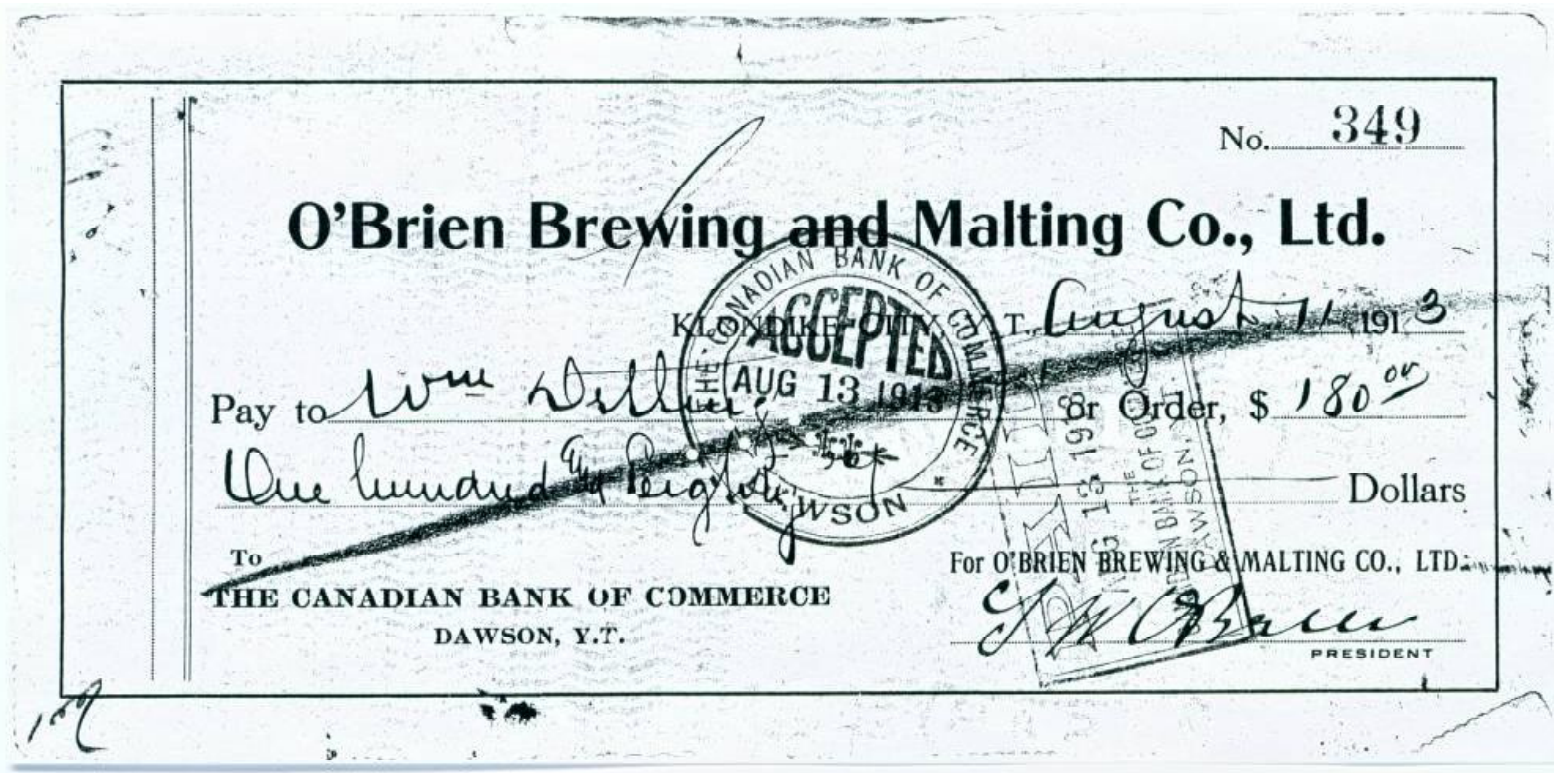
INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR



Belarus 20 Roubles. Sterling silver (33 grams), colored penguins.

Belarus and Russia plan to reopen Molodyozhnaya Station for the 2007-2008 polar winter (closed in 1989).

JIM ROBB'S YUKON PAPER POTPOURRI



Thomas O'Brien was also owner of the Red Feather Saloon. Shown actual size.

SALOON TOKENS OF THE UNITED STATES

by Al Erickson

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FOR THE RECORD



(PALMER): From the eBay description: “30mm white metal token good for 12 1/2c in trade at Palmers Bar, Knik, Alaska. This token came from the collection of Howard Thew, well-known Alaska collector. Howard attributed the token to Knik, and his attribution is probably correct, as George Palmer had a liquor establishment in Knik, as verified by an article by Coleen Mielke in Alaska History, Fall 2007 edition (a publication of the Alaska Historical Society). George Palmer is the person Palmer, Alaska was named for.” Submitted by Kaye Dethridge.



(NOME:) From the eBay description 24mm white metal token good for 12 1/2c in trade at the Board of Trade Bar, Nome, Alaska. Reverse shows a pool table and says “Brunswick Balke Collender Compy” Also included is a letter from a 1974 owner of this bar confirming that this token is from that bar. These items are from the collection of Henry Keene of Ketchikan (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



(SKAGWAY): Shooting Gallery, Caudle, 25¢ in trade, unlisted denomination. Aluminum, 28mm (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



(VALDEZ): H.L. Huneke, 5¢ at Bar. Listed, not illustrated. Brass, 24mm (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



(KATALLA): Robt. Ashland, 12 1/2¢ in trade. New denomination. Aluminum, 27mm.



(POST FALLS, IDAHO): The Tanana, 1¢ in trade. Brass, no size reported. Another “Tanana” denomination.



OPHIR: Innoko Resources LLC, Inc., Alaska Silver, One troy ounce .999 Fine. In Silver We Trust. Edge marked with serial number and 2008 (date). Looks like a Northwest Territorial Mint product.



FAIRBANKS: Gold Kings (Hockey Team), Since 1977, 1982-1983. Apparently issued for the 5th anniversary of the team. Silver colored metal, 37mm; cast, thin, crude, ugly. We love it! \$15 plus \$5 shipping.

Bid on a set of silver colored and gold colored in our auction, lot #209.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



ELMENDORF A.F.B.: ALCOM-ANR, 11TH AF-3RD WING, F-16C/D, F-15E, B-3, AWACS, C-130, C-12. Top Cover for America. Blue, white, brown and green enamel on bronze.



NAS KEFLAVIK: Navy Ball 2004. Red, white and blue on bronze.



FORT WAINWRIGHT: America's Arctic Warriors, Commitment to Community. Bronze, 39mm.



NAS KEFLAVIK: United States Armed Forces Proud Service since 1951. White, blue and yellow on bronze.



ICELAND: Commander, Iceland Defense Force, RADM. Noel G. Preston. Red, white, blue, orange and yellow on oxidized silver finish.



KEFLAVIK: Fleet Air Keflavik, ASW Capital of the world. Green, white, blue, red, and black on oxidized silver finish.



KEFLAVIK: 85th Group; 85 ROS, 85CES, 85MSS, 85MXS, 85OS, 85SFS, 932 ACS. Red, white, blue and yellow on bronze (?).



KEFLAVIK: Naval Media Center, Det. 5, AFNEWS. White, light blue, dark blue and gold on bronze.

ALASKA SILVER MEDALS - YOUR CHOICE - \$25 EACH



KETCHIKAN: Elks, 45 years of service, 1967 Purchase Centennial, 33mm. These are available in sterling silver proof and oxidized sterling silver. (CN)



HOMER: Museum Centennial Souvenir, Where the trail ends and the sea begins, 1967. Silver and bronze set.



MT. MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK: Souvenir Medallion, sterling silver, 40mm. Shows the old Park hotel. (CN)



SITKA: Alaska's Historical Capital, Trade Dollar, 1963, 40mm, sterling. (CN)



NENANA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Clear- BMEWS, Healy-Gateway to Mt. McKinley National Park, and Nenana-Ice Classic began in 1917. Souvenir Dollar, 1972, sterling silver, 40mm. (CN)



KODIAK: Kodiak Bicentennial, (1992), Great Seal of the U.S. 40mm .999 fine silver.



NENANA: Nenana Ice Classic/Nenana Dog Musher's Association, 1977, unmarked silver, 39mm. (BRZ)



SEWARD: 52nd Annual Mount Marathon Race, 1966 by Medallion Art Co., oxidized "fine silver."

Those items followed by CN or BRZ indicate that cupronickel or bronze examples are available. These are \$4 each. Please include \$5 per order for postage and handling.

MONSTER MEDALS!



OK, that is sales puffery! But these are huge, 3½ inches in diameter (89mm). The White Pass & Yukon medals is shown actual size. The other three are shown at a greatly reduced size. These are made from souvenir ashtray dies, circa 1910 to 1920.

We had these uniface, bronze medals made starting in 1982, the first being the WP&Y. This medal is about 3.5mm thick and weighs 7 troy ounces. The other three medals are 6mm thick and weigh in at about 10 ounces. Only 100 of each were struck.

The White Pass & Yukon medal sold out in about a month. We have purchased back pieces here and there over the years. The other medals did not sell out, but our supply is extremely limited. We offer these for sale as follows:

White Pass & Yukon	\$225
Skagway	\$100
White Horse Rapids	\$50
Alaskan Express	\$75

We can also offer the complete set of four medals at \$400, a savings of \$50. Please include \$5 for shipping for one medal, and \$10 for 2 or more.

We recommend a phone call or email to reserve these.

FROM LARGE TO SMALL!

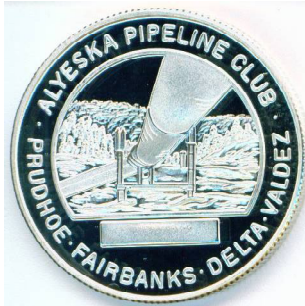


Set #5 of our tokens struck from Eagle Creek gold is still available for \$1,200, postpaid. This includes a lead strike from the cancelled die.

A couple ¼ DWT and ½ DWT are available for \$25 and \$45, respectively. Please add \$5 for shipping on these.

Next up is a full, 1 oz. gold token! Maybe in the next issue!

MORE ALASKA SILVER!



FAIRBANKS ET AL: Alyeska Pipeline Club. We had a batch of these made years ago and expected to make more as the need arose. Well, people change and we only did one striking of 1,000?? A thousand?? I don't recall making that many, but that is what our records say. **\$25**

AMERICAN INDIAN COLLECTION, Northwest coast Indian. .98 ounces, sterling silver. **\$25**



FAIRBANKS: (Bob Barlett), first in the Pioneer series of the Fairbanks Coin Club. **\$25**

(NENANA): John B. "Jack" Coghill. Long time state senator and Lt. Governor during Hickel's second term under the Alaska Independence Party banner. **\$25**

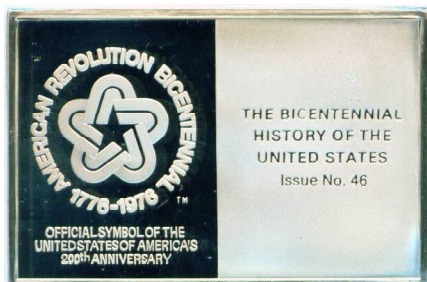


CLEAR: BMEWS (Ballistic Missile Early Warning System) Site II (or 11?), 25 years, 1986. Unmarked silver, 1 oz. **\$25**



(FT. WAINWRIGHT): 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, "Buffalos." One ounce silver and bronze. **\$25**

PURCHASE OF ALASKA, from the Bicentennial History of the U.S., issue no. 46. Sterling silver, 750 grains (1.46 oz. pure silver). **\$32**



Please add \$5 per order for postage and insurance.

Most items are only one or two in stock. A phone call or email would be recommended.

ALASKA RARE COINS

**P.O. BOX 72832 - 551B SECOND AVE.
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(907) 452-6461**

e-mail: akcoins@mosquitonet.com

AUCTION: TO BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M., APRIL 12TH IN FAIRBANKS. These are just the Alaskan items. If you want a complete listing, please call or write to the address above. Phone bids may be called in between 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday to Saturday (noon on the day of the auction). Bids will also be accepted at the e-mail address above.

ALASKA TOKENS & MEDALS

ESTIMATE

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 204 | Bethel , Olson Brothers, 25¢, 50¢ and \$1 in trade, B-3 a-c. All XF or better, the 25¢ and \$1 have some minor corrosion. Three pieces. | 25.00 |
| 205 | Ketchikan , Tongass Chapter No. 5, Masonic Penny, B-61aI, brass. This piece is essentially uncirculated, brilliant on the obverse, and with splotchy toning on the reverse. Quite scarce | 200.00 |
| 206 | McCarthy , Golden Hotel, James Hyland, Prop. 12½¢ and 25¢ in trade, B-2 a,b. Both are XF, oval brass, but both have dabs of solder (mostly removed) on the reverse. Two pieces. | 100.00 |
| 207 | Mountain Village , Sheppard Trading Company, \$1 in merchandise, B-1c, AU-BU. Not a rare token, but it has a clipped planchet, approximately 5%. The holder that it is in indicates that it is from the Dave Fronius collection. Just an interesting oddity, uncommon on tokens. | 20.00 |
| 208 | Almost Yukon! Liard Post, B.C. , Hyland & Belfry, \$1 in trade, VF-EF. Liard Post is now Lower Post on the Alaska Highway, where it dips back into British Columbia just south of Watson Lake. Hyland and Belfry were well known traders, competing against the Hudson's Bay Company. Scarce and desirable. | 100.00+ |
| 209 | Fairbanks Hockey Medal . Issued for the 5 th anniversary of the Gold Kings hockey team. They carry the 1982-1983 season date, and the founding date of 1977. And, we had not seen them until a month ago. These medals are cast, crude and ugly. They are 37mm in diameter, and cast in an unknown metal with two different colors - silver and gold. In this small hoard of seven medals, only one was gold colored. We offer two specimens, one of each color/metal. | 50.00+ |
| 210 | Half Ounce Alaska State Medals , 1990. Here is a very unusual lot - a small hoard of a fairly scarce medals. Only 1,300 were struck by Alaska Precious Metals in that year with the walrus on the obverse. These fractionals were never minted in the same quantity as the popular 1 ounce. The State medal program had only been in existence 1 year before these medals were struck. All are BU, some with light toning. 21 pieces. | 300.00-375.00 |
| 211 | 1/20 oz. Gold Proof Alaska State Medal , 2002. A rare medal with only 122 struck depicting an Alaska King Crab. Original packaging and paperwork included. | 90.00-100.00 |
| 212 | ¼ oz. Gold Alaska State Medal , 2007, Proof-55! No case or paperwork. | 260.00 |
| 213 | Alaskan Independence Party Medals . The first honors Joseph E. Vogler, the founder of the AIP. If memory serves me, Joe was murdered just before this medal was released. It was obviously in preparation when he disappeared. The second medal honors John B. "Jack" Coghill. Jack was the Lt. Governor under Walter Hickel when they ran under the AIP banner. The reverse of both features the Alaska flag over mountains, and the legend "God Bless Alaska." Both are serial numbered (the numbers do not match). The Vogler medal is in case of issue. Two one ounce silver medals, both quite scarce. | 70.00+ |

